



SPECIAL COMMENTARY

MY COMMENTS, HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD,
OCTOBER 22, 2005. BY ED CADMAN MD



Dr. Scott McCaffrey presenting the HMA Physician of the Year award to this year's Recipient Dr. Edwin Cadman at the 2005 HMA Ola Pono Ike.

Thank you so much for this award, I am humbled by it. So many of you out there deserve this award. But, I will take it anyway.

YOU SAVED OUR SCHOOL

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When I came to Hawaii in November 1999, the medical school was threatened with probation, and there was talk about closing the school and at the same time the state had as one of its top priorities to diversify the economy, and one of the sectors was biotechnology. I reminded the government and community leaders that you could not import biotechnology, it is clustered around where there is research being done. Mostly research intensive medical schools and private research institutes, that's why they are in San Diego, San Francisco Bay area, Boston, New Haven, and New York City. And if we don't support a research-intensive medical school in Hawaii, the biotechnology industry would not have a chance of succeeding.

Many people asked, WHY HAWAII? I saw the opportunity in Hawaii; and I wanted to be a part of it. Most medical schools can contribute immeasurably to this new industry, especially in Hawaii and can, also, elevate the health care in the region in which they reside.

I met with Governor Ben Cayetano, he said, "If you come, I will not let the school close; after all, it's named for the democratic Governor, John A. Burns." He chuckled and smiled, it had a sort of comforting feeling for me. I signed my contract the next week.

We took six months to develop our strategic plan. I went around and met with legislators, community leaders; and faculty, students and

staff. I asked the taxi driver, the clerk at the store, the valet, and I asked my neighbors, "What would you like your medical school to become?" Never once did I get an answer, "to close the school." But they liked the idea of becoming a catalyst for the biotech industry. When I talked to some university faculty members, they said, "We'll see what happens" ... with cock-sure attitudes, and slightly smirking smiles on their faces. And some of the university administrators did not want this to happen. I could have been fired if I said that as Dean, now I am a tenured professor and I can say whatever I please. They're all gone now. The negative attitudes inspired me to move forward with determination.

The medical school was well known for its Problem Based Learning Curriculum in 1999. But many of the faculty and students realized that the medical school would not become nationally recognized unless we had a research component. I became a cheerleader for them to create a new strategic plan that included research.

There was a lot of discussion about moving the school to Kapolei and other sites on Oahu. But eventually everybody was in agreement that Kaka'ako was the ideal site, except for a few. You know who they are now.

Our ideal weather, quality of life, and our reputation for excellence in education and research has allowed us to recruit outstanding faculty to compliment our faculty who are already here. The new faculty came from outstanding institutions, such as, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, University of Chicago, the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Center, Centers for Disease Control, the University of Utah, Northwestern University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Brookhaven National Labs in New York City, University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), Max Plank Institute in Germany and Princeton.

The success in the last six years:

Full accreditation until 2008.

The total revenues doubled to \$113 million.

The research grants and contacts have exploded from \$3.2 million to \$21 million. Nearly a 700% increase.

Indirect costs similarly rose exponentially to a little less than 700%, to \$5.5 million.

The State contributed \$22.6 million, but the hospitals did more, \$28 million last year.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine graduated a total of 1,802 physicians for our state, of which 184 are of Native Hawaiian decent.

We are taking advantage of our geographical location! We have educational and research relationships with China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The Board of Regents and the Legislature took the courage to believe in our dreams. The new medical school would not have happened without the regents and legislators' support and timely decisions. I would like to thank David McCain, Interim President, for all his support; and former President of the University, Ken Morimer, who recruited me. I want to recognize all the faculty and students that had the determination to realize their strategic plan. I have a lot of respect for Sam Shomaker, he is doing an outstanding job as acting dean, and Robert Nobriga whom I recruited to be our CFO, made sense of the finances. I want to thank Governor Ben Cayetano, who did not close the medical school. Most importantly, I want to acknowledge Governor Lingle's tremendous support in this project and to me personally. She was always available.

Others I want to acknowledge and say thanks to:

Allan Ah San and Francis Blanco were behind the scenes and directed the construction.

Walter Muraoka and the group at Architects Hawaii, they designed the medical school. Some people think that I designed it.

Bill Wilson, the president, and his group at Hawaiian Dredging and Construction/Kajima who built the medical school. Cindy Thompson and Ted Matheny, the project managers.

I want to recognize and acknowledge Katherine Nichols' emotional support during the past four years.

When I was at UCSF as the director of the Cancer Research Institute in the mid 1980s, I watched what happened with Genentech, Cetus, Chiron, and Cal Bio. All of these companies grew from the science being done at UCSF and Stanford.

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE!!!

I articulated the community and State's vision for this industry. It is your vision, not mine: embrace it, surround it, build it and create it. The renaissance and revitalization is happening in Kaka'ako. Extraordinary things are happening in Hawaii and I am glad to be part of this journey.

Confidence and optimism are the fuel of success, and we have a lot of both. Keep the vision!!

I love my medical school and I love my state and I love you all.

Thanks!!!



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